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Southwick Urban District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1952



BY

THOMAS HERBERT HARRISON

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.



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SOUTHWICK

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

“Normanhurst,”
16 Buckingham Road,
Shoreham-by-Sea.
June, 1953.

Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the Southwick Urban District for the year 1952.

From a health point of view it has been a good year. There have been no epidemics of infectious disease in this or neighbouring districts. There has been steady improvement in the health and well being of the community. The improvement is most marked in the children as they have had the benefits of improved social conditions and better medical care and supervision from birth. Improvement has undoubtedly taken place in other age groups, but here it is not so obvious.

At the other end of the scale the picture is not nearly so bright. Improved social conditions and medical care are prolonging lives, without necessarily providing the wherewithal to enjoy this life to the full. There comes a time when the old people are no longer able to take care of themselves, and it is then that they become an acute social problem. There is an ever increasing tendency for people to-day to rid themselves of their responsibility towards their aged relatives, but the facilities available are at present grossly inadequate.

Under the present administrative arrangements the old but able bodied are the responsibility of the County Councils and County Borough Councils, while the elderly sick are the responsibility of Regional Hospital Boards. Of these two classes it is the chronic sick who present the biggest problem. In this district it frequently happens that the elderly sick have to wait several weeks before a hospital bed can be obtained during which time their conditions rapidly deteriorate.

Vital Statistics.

For the first time on record there were no infantile deaths in the district. The birth rate is rather low, but apart from this the vital statistics approximate fairly closely with the rest of the country.

Housing.

Housing is still a big problem. We are a long way from the ideal, of a separate unit of accommodation for each family. Perhaps the biggest problem connected with housing is that of repair and maintenance. While new houses are being built at one end of the district, old properties in the centre of the town are falling into disrepair and decay. The present system of rent control gives little incentive to landlords to spend money on their property. I can see little chance of real improvement in this direction until the Rent Restriction Acts have been amended.

Infectious Disease.

The last twenty years have seen tremendous changes in all aspects of infectious disease.

Diphtheria.

This disease which was a major killing disease has become so rare that to the present generation of young mothers it is a name only. This result has undoubtedly been brought about by the extensive immunisation campaign. There is the great danger, however, that if the habit of diphtheria immunisation is allowed to slip, we shall again be faced with epidemics of diphtheria in our midst.

Smallpox.

Outbreaks of smallpox continue to occur from time to time in various parts of the country. Invariably when these occur, panic vaccination takes place. This could be avoided if all parents would ensure that their children are vaccinated, first at about four months, and again at intervals which coincide with such important milestones as school entry, school leaving, and entry into the Armed Forces. If vaccination is carried out at these intervals, the unpleasant reactions associated with vaccination would be almost completely eliminated.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS HERBERT HARRISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

To : The Chairman and Members of the Southwick
Urban District Council.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Councillor H. W. CHISNALL.

Councillor Mrs. B. E. NEWMAN (Chairman of Council).

Councillor D. J. LOADER.

„ R. W. LEAN.

„ R. D. VOICE.

„ T. H. PORTER.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

THOMAS HERBERT HARRISON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. AND H.

Sanitary Inspector :

T. A. EARDLEY, CERT. S.I.B., A.R.S.I.

Clerical Assistant :

F. S. MORLEY.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :

Miss J. CLEGG.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Southwick is a small urban area on the south coast, situated four miles west of Brighton.

The eastern arm of Shoreham Harbour, known locally as "The Canal," flowing eastwards, form the southern boundary of the district. On the strip of land south of the Canal are situated the Electricity Works of the British Electricity Authority and the Works of the South Eastern Gas Board. The sheltered water of the Canal is used as a harbour by sundry private yachts.

Fishing, Agriculture, a Dye Works, the Gas and Electricity undertakings referred to above and retail shop-keeping provide occupation for the majority of the inhabitants.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Acres, 1,103.

Resident Population (1952) estimated by Registrar General, 10,680.

Population (1951) Census, 10,718.

Rateable value £93,786.

Sum represented by 1d. rate, £386.

No. of inhabited houses end of 1952 according to the Rate Books, 3,597.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births—	Total M. F.					
Legitimate	140	71	69	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.9.		
Illegitimate	9	4	5			
Stillbirths	...	4	1	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 26.1.	
Deaths	134	64	70	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.5.
Corrected Birth Rate ... 14.8						
Corrected Death Rate ... 10.1						
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:— Nil.						
Deaths of Infants under one year of age, Nil.						
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:— All Infants per 1,000 live births, Nil. Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births, Nil. Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.						

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 31.
 Deaths from Measles (all ages), None.
 Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), None.
 Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), None.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1952

	England and Wales	West Sussex Urban	West Sussex Rural	Southwick U.D.
Birth Rate	15.3	12.3	13.9	13.9
Death Rate	11.3	14.9	11.8	12.5
Infantile Death Rate	27.6	17	18	0.0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis				
Death Rate	0.2	0.2	0.13	0.28
Cancer Death Rate	1.9	2.8	2.09	2.9
Maternal Mortality Rate				
per 1,000 births	0.72	0.9	0.9	0.0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

National Health Service Act, 1946.

Since the National Health Service Act came into force on July 5th, 1948, the following services are the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, which is West Sussex County Council:—

- The Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- Domiciliary Midwifery.
- Health Visiting.
- Home Nursing.
- Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.
- Home Help.
- Mental Health.
- Ambulance and Hospital Car Service.
- Vaccination against Smallpox.
- Immunisation against Diphtheria.

1.—Local Health Authority Services.

Nursing.

General District Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors and School Nurses are employed by the County Council to serve in the area.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

A centre is held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at the Social Club, at 2.30, under the County Council's Child Welfare Scheme, the local district nurses being in charge of it, and one of the local Medical Practitioners being in attendance once a fortnight on a Thursday. An Ante-Natal Clinic is also held Fortnightly on Friday, at the Community Centre at 2.30 p.m.

Day Nurseries.

There is no day nursery in the district.

School Clinics.

No Minor Ailment Clinic is held in the district, but children attending Southwick Schools may be sent to the Shoreham-by-Sea Minor Ailment Clinic.

Eye Clinics and Speech Therapy Clinics are also held at Shoreham-by-Sea Health Centre, and Orthopædic Clinics at Lancing Health Centre.

Children suffering from enlarged tonsils and adenoids are seen by appointment at the Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital, Brighton.

A Physiotherapy Clinic is held at Shoreham-by-Sea Health Centre.

Chest Clinics.

The Worthing Hospital Management Committee's Chest Clinic, held at Southlands Hospital, is available to the residents of Southwick.

Venereal Diseases.

The Worthing Hospital Management Committee have made arrangements entitling residents in the district to attend the Clinics for Venereal Diseases held at Worthing Hospital.

Ambulance Service.

Acting as agents for the County Council, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society operate the Ambulance and Hospital Car Service in the County. Calls for an ambulance are made through the doctor or nurse in attendance on the case, or through the Police or public in case of accidents or other emergencies.

Lists showing names and addresses of midwives, health visitors and general nurses may be seen at County Libraries, Town Halls or Offices of local District Councils, and the Public Health Department, County Hall, Chichester. Information as to the situation of clinics and times of sessions may be obtained from the same sources, or from the local midwife, health visitors or general nurse.

II.—Hospital and Specialist Services.

A comprehensive hospital and specialist service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. Doctors can arrange whatever forms of treatment are needed for their patients in general or special hospitals, whether as in-patients or out-patients. Hospital accommodation of a private nature is available in certain circumstances subject to appropriate charges. All types of cases are thus provided for—medical, surgical, maternity, infectious diseases, and those requiring sanatorium or mental hospital treatment.

The Worthing Group Hospitals comprise: Worthing, Southlands, Swandean, Littlehampton and Arundel Hospitals; Zachary Merton Maternity Home, Rustington, and certain Convalescent Homes.

III.—General Medical and Dental Services.

Everyone is entitled as part of the arrangements for the National Health Service to general medical and dental care. Local arrangements for these services are organised through the National Health Service Executive Council for West Sussex, 63 South Street, Chichester.

Legislation in Force.

No Local Acts, Special health orders, General Adoptive Acts or Bye-Laws relating to the public Health have come into force during 1952.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above Section during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

There is an abundant and constant supply of pure water from the Brighton Corporation. All dwelling-houses have a piped supply laid on. There are no stand-pipes in the area.

The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Two samples of water were sent for chemical or bacteriological examination during the year.

Extensions of Mains during the year :

	Yds.	Main.
Windmill Road	244	4in.
Ridgeway Estate	8	4in.
Windmill Estate	684	4in.
Albion Street—Fishersgate Terr.	1,187	12in.

Public Cleansing.

(a) House Refuse.

The tip was sprayed at regular intervals during the year with Gammexane, and the refuse collection vehicles were sprayed with insecticide whilst loading was in operation.

(b) Sewers.

No extensions of existing sewers were made during the year.

(c) Cesspools. ...

There are no cesspools in the district.

Schools.

There are four Primary Schools and one Secondary School in the District. All have the Public water supply and water closet sanitation.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

It has not been necessary to take any action to check the pollution of rivers or streams.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	33	73	4	--
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	15	31	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority . . .	2	12	—	—
Total .	50	116	4	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors . . .	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences —					
Insufficient . .	2	2	—	2	—
Other offences . .	2	2	—	—	—
Total .	6	6	—	2	—

There are 27 Outworkers in the district.

Shops Acts, 1950.

No. of shops in the district 154

No. of inspections 130

No. of defects found :—

(a) Ventilation 1

(b) Warming 0

(c) Sanitary defects 2

The defects were remedied.

No applications were made under Section 38(2) for exemption.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

No. of inspections 15

No. of complaints received 2

No. of contraventions observed 2
(unlicensed site)

No. remedied 2

Camping Sites.

No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during the year 1

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

All complaints of rat and mice infestation received during the year have been investigated. The Council employ a part-time Rodent Operator who has dealt with infestations on private premises. No charge has been made for privately owned dwellings. Treatment used in infestations was that recommended by the Ministry of Food, the P.3 trap, together with poison bait.

Mosquitoes.

No complaints have been received in respect of mosquitoes.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

No. of premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold	2
No. of inspections made	9
No. requiring action to be taken	None

Smoke Abatement.

No. of observations made	19
No. of notices served	None

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One Council house and three non-Council houses were found to be infested with bed bugs and disinfested by the Council by the use of sulphur dioxide, thermatox and spraying with Roxem. No house has been disinfested by hydrogen cyanide. The furniture of prospective tenants of Council houses is inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and disinfested if necessary.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1952.

During the year the Local Authority erected 50 units of accommodation (houses and flats).

Seventeen houses were erected by private enterprise.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	59
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	86

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	57

2.—Remedying of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	45
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.

4.—Housing Act, 1936-1949—Overcrowding :—

(a) i. No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year (estimated)	Nil
ii. No. of families dwelling therein (estimated)	—
iii. No. of persons dwelling therein (estimated)	—
(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c) i. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
ii. No. of persons concerned in such cases . .	—
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding . . .	None

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply. Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.**

No. of Dairymen (Cowkeepers and Milksellers), etc.	18
No. of these registered as Wholesalers only	0
No. of these registered as Retailers only	17
No. of these registered as both Wholesalers and Retailers .	1
No. of Inspections of Milkshops	21

Water Supply to Dairy Premises.

All the above premises are supplied from the public water mains.

Licences.

Licences granted by the Local Authority.

To pasteurise milk	1
To retail milk using the designation—	
(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk	6
(b) Pasteurised	8

(b) **Meat.**

No. of inspections of Butchers' Shops	45
Meat found unfit for human consumption	178 lbs.
There are no slaughter houses in the district.	

(c) **Ice Cream.**

No. of places of manufacture in the district	0
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(d) **Other Foods.**

Other Foods have been kept under observation throughout the year and a number of parcels of foodstuffs, found to be unfit for human consumption, were voluntarily surrendered.

(e) **Shell Fish.**

There are no shell fish beds or layings in the district.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK AND IMPROVEMENTS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

No. of inspections in regard to Infectious Disease .	117
No. of premises disinfected after Infectious Disease .	39
No. of verminous premises disinfested	4
No. of Nuisances found to exist	10
No. of Nuisances abated	10
No. of Ashbins provided	17

Summary.

Total No. of inspections made for all purposes . .	842
Total No. of Notices served :—	
Informal	52
Statutory	1
Total No. of summonses issued	0
Total No. of convictions obtained (summons withdrawn)	Nil
Complaints received	32
Complaints found justified and dealt with . . .	26

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

	Und. 1 year	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever .	—	3	13	23	2	—	1	42
Whooping Cough	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	6
Ac. Poliomyelitis:								
Paralytic . .	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	5
Non-Paralytic .	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Measles	1	5	3	23	1	1	1	35
Diphtheria . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Und. 5 yrs.	5—14	15—44	45—64	65 and over	Total
Pneumonia	1	3	5	1	1	11
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	4	1	5
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	42	3	—
Whooping Cough	6	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	5	5	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis—Non-Paralytic	1	1	—
Measles	35	—	—
Pneumonia	11	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria Immunisation has again been carried out during the year by the County Council. At the end of the year the position was as follows :—

	Total number of children immunised
Under 5 years of age	388
5-14 years of age	997

In addition, 157 children received a third reinforcing dose during the year.

Food Poisoning.

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory at Brighton is now in full use for the examination of bacteriological specimens.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	3	—	1	2	1	—	—

No person died who had not been notified during life.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS 1925.

It has not been necessary to serve any notice under these Regulations which prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis taking part in the production of milk.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 172.

No action has had to be taken by the Council under this Section, which gives power to Sanitary Authorities to apply in special cases for a Magistrate's Order for the removal of Tuberculosis persons to an Institution for isolation.

					Date		
No.	Name	Address	City	State	Month	Day	Year
1	John Doe	123 Main St	New York	NY	Jan	15	1900
2	Jane Smith	456 Elm St	Chicago	IL	Feb	20	1901
3	Robert Brown	789 Oak St	Philadelphia	PA	Mar	10	1902
4	Mary White	101 Pine St	Boston	MA	Apr	25	1903
5	James Green	202 Cedar St	San Francisco	CA	May	5	1904
6	Elizabeth Black	303 Birch St	Los Angeles	CA	Jun	18	1905
7	William Gray	404 Walnut St	Portland	ME	Jul	30	1906
8	Anna Hall	505 Spruce St	Seattle	WA	Aug	12	1907
9	Charles King	606 Ash St	Denver	CO	Sep	22	1908
10	Grace Lee	707 Hickory St	San Antonio	TX	Oct	5	1909

